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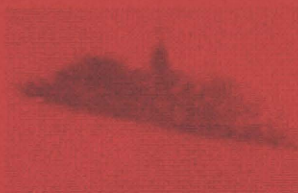
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The articles and views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, YUFOS members,

"I think he's attempting re-entry!"

DNA SAMPLE FROM ABDUCTION CASE RAISES BIG QUESTIONS

Mystery Blonde Leaves Hair Behind -- But Who Was She?

(CNI News / Bill Chalker)

An abduction case from Australia has resulted in what may be the world's first DNA test of abduction-related biological material. The intriguing results raise many questions about the physical nature of abduction and also illustrate the need for more intensive scientific research on this world-wide mystery.

The full case report by leading Australian researcher Bill Chalker is published in the Spring 1999 edition of *International UFO Reporter*, the quarterly journal of the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Centre for UFO Studies (CUFOS). The following summary is published with Chalker's permission and assistance.

Peter Khoury, the subject of this case, was born in Lebanon in 1964 and moved to Australia in 1973. There he met his future wife Vivian at school in 1981. Peter and Vivian were married in 1990 and now have two children. They live in Sydney. Peter works in the building trades and has owned his own business in cement rendering.

Peter and Vivian had their first UFO experience in February 1988, a simple sighting of unusual moving lights. But in July of that year, Peter had a deeply disturbing, consciously remembered contact experience that, he says, changed his life. While lying on his bed, he felt something grab his ankles. He suddenly felt numb and paralysed, but remained conscious. Then he noticed three or four small hooded figures alongside the bed. He experienced telepathic communication with one or more of these beings; he was told to relax and not be afraid because "it would be like last time." He then saw that they were about to insert a long needle into the side of his head, whereupon he blacked out.

He jolted awake some time later, leaped out of bed and ran into the living room where he found his father and brother apparently dozing. Both he and his brother felt that only 10 minutes had passed since they had last been awake, but they soon realised that an hour or more had passed. The next morning, Peter and Vivian noticed that there was an

obvious puncture mark on the side of his head, with a trace of dried blood.

At this time, Peter had never heard of alien abduction. His memories were vivid and alarming, but he could find neither answers nor comfort from friends and acquaintances. Then, some months later, he and Vivian drove by a roadside billboard with an image of Whitley Strieber's book '*Communion*,' and they immediately got the book. Peter found numerous details in Strieber's account that matched his own strange experience.

Peter's subsequent attempts to connect with local UFO groups and experiencers proved frustrating. Eventually, in April 1993, he resolved to found a new group in Sydney, the UFO Experience Support Association (UFOESA), dedicated to helping people understand and cope with their unusual encounters. He remains the co-ordinator of that group today.

In July 1992, Peter had the experience that became the focus of this case study. Because the experience had disturbing sexual aspects, Peter was very reticent to talk about it. He first mentioned it to Bill Chalker, one of Australia's leading researchers, in 1996. He showed Chalker that he had recovered an unusual strand of hair from the encounter.

At the time, Chalker felt he could not do anything with the physical evidence, but over the next several years, he assembled a group of scientists and forensic investigators willing to work on UFO-related cases. With his "invisible college" associates, Chalker discussed the possibility of doing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification and sequencing of mitochondrial DNA that might be recovered from Peter Khoury's hair sample. In early 1998, these researchers -- now calling themselves the Anomaly Physical Evidence Group -- agreed to do the DNA testing on the hair sample.

Chalker points out that "alien" beings are most often described by experiencers as having no visible hair. But one type -- sometimes called

"Nordic"-- is described fairly often as having distinctly human-like features including hair, often (though not always) blonde in colour. A number of well-known abduction cases have involved human-looking beings with hair, including the 1975 abduction reported by Travis Walton in Arizona, and the 1957 Brazilian abduction reported by Antonio Villas Boas. Peter Khoury's case has some similarity to that of Villas Boas, who said he was forced to have sex with an aggressive humanoid female aboard a landed UFO.

Khoury told Chalker that his encounter of July 23, 1992 began at 7:30 in the morning while he was in bed. He had recently been injured at work and was taking pain medication. Earlier that morning, he had driven his wife to work, then returned home and went back to bed for a short while. Suddenly, he bolted wide-awake and sat up. There were two humanoid females sitting on the bed, both entirely naked.

These two women looked human in nearly every way. They had well-proportioned adult bodies. One looked somewhat Asian, with straight dark shoulder-length hair and dark eyes. The other looked perhaps Scandinavian, with light-coloured ("maybe bluish") eyes and long blond hair that fell halfway down her back. Her hair was especially notable to Peter Khoury.

"I had never seen a hair style like that. It was curled something like Farrah Fawcett, but to an extreme... It just looked really exotic in a way," he told Chalker. But Khoury felt that these women were not exactly human. Their faces were somewhat odd -- not unattractive, but too chiselled, with very high cheekbones and eyes that were two or three times larger than normal. Khoury took special notice of the blonde. Her face was too long, he felt. "I have never seen a human looking like that," he said.

The blonde, who was sitting in a kneeling position on the bed, seemed to be in charge. Khoury thought she was communicating telepathically with the dark-haired woman, who was sitting with her legs partly folded under her.

There was something stiff, almost blank, in the expressions of the women, Khoury thought. Though stunned by the sudden appearance of the women, Khoury had only a few moments to consider how they could possibly have arrived in his bedroom before the blonde reached out with both her hands and cupped the back of his head, drawing his face toward

her chest. He resisted. She pulled harder. He kept pulling back. "She was pretty strong," he told Chalker. "She pulled me over and my mouth was basically on her nipple. And I bit." Khoury said he doesn't know why he bit the woman, but even though he felt a small piece of her nipple come away in his teeth, she did not cry out. But "the expression on her face was like, 'this isn't the way.' In a way it was shock or confusion... She looked at the Asian one... and looked at me like, this isn't the way it's supposed to happen. You've done this wrong."

Involuntarily, Khoury swallowed the small fragment in his mouth, and it caught in his throat. He went into a coughing fit. Suddenly, the two women simply disappeared.

Once he realised the women were gone, he tried to clear his throat by drinking water. It didn't work. Then he had an urge to go to the bathroom. He realised that his penis felt very painful. Standing in the bathroom, he pulled back the foreskin and found two thin blond strands of hair wrapped tightly around. He struggled to unravel the pieces of hair as the pain became an intense burning sensation. Finally he managed to removed the two pieces of hair and immediately put them in a small sealable plastic bag.

"The reason I did that was because I knew that there was no way, no way at all, that a hair that size and wrapped around the way it was should have been there.... Thinking of these women, the thing in my throat, the hair, something bizarre had just happened." Khoury resolved to keep the hair sample in case it should ever prove useful in shedding light on his experiences.

The thing in Khoury's throat stayed there for three days. He coughed constantly. He tried clearing his throat with water, bread, anything he could think of, but nothing helped. On the third day, the feeling in his throat just went away. He did not want to tell his wife how his coughing fit had come about, but two weeks later he decided to tell her. "I was shocked," he told Chalker. "She accepted it better than I did."

The pieces of hair, carefully stored away since the encounter, became the subject of the first openly-reported scientific DNA test on a possible abduction-related sample.

The blond hairs were extremely thin and almost clear in colour. It was determined that

the hair was not chemically treated, because if it had been, little or no mitochondrial DNA could have been recovered. However, using the PCR (polymerase chain reaction) process, good quality DNA was recovered.

For comparison, samples were also taken of Peter Khoury's hair and that of his wife Vivian. DNA was successfully extracted from Peter's hair, but no usable DNA was recovered from Vivian's hair, possibly because of chemical treatment.

After thorough testing of the hair samples, the scientists of the Anomaly Physical Evidence Group arrived at a startling conclusion. The thin blond hair, which appeared to have come from a light-skinned caucasian-type woman, could not have come from a normal human of that racial type. Instead, though human, the hair showed five distinctive DNA markers that are characteristic of a rare sub-group of the Chinese Mongoloid racial type. A detailed survey of the literature on variations in mitochondrial DNA, comprising tens of thousands of samples, showed only four other people on record with all five of the distinctive markers in the blond hair. All four were Chinese, with black hair.

Mitochondrial DNA is passed only from mother to child and therefore offers a means of tracing ancient ancestry on the mother's side. The findings suggest that all four of the Chinese subjects share a common female ancestor with the blonde woman. But there is no easy explanation for how this could be.

Testing for nuclear DNA, if such could be recovered from the blond hair, would be more complex and expensive than the tests run so far, but might show that the lineage of the blonde's father was even stranger than that of her mother. But such testing must await funding that has yet to be found. So far, the members of the Anomaly Physical Evidence Group have financed all their work themselves.

Without the blond hair sample, the story told by Peter Khoury is but one more in an almost endless sequence of wrenching, but unprovable, abduction accounts. The hair, however, changes everything. It undeniably exists, and thorough forensic testing shows that it is anomalous. It seems likely that no person with blond hair and an exact DNA match to Khoury's blonde could be found in the city of Sydney, nor on the continent of

Australia, nor -- probably -- anywhere in the world.

Who then was the being whose blond hair inexplicably became wrapped around Peter Khoury's penis?

"Are we dealing with 'humans' from elsewhere, namely those with human DNA, albeit very rare and somewhat anomalous?" asks Bill Chalker. "This case raises all sorts of issues, such as human 'panspermia'" -- the theory that human-like beings may have migrated to Earth in the fairly recent past from elsewhere in the galaxy, perhaps giving rise to the sudden appearance of modern homo sapiens sapiens, a species not directly descended from their immediate predecessors, the Neanderthals.

"Also, given the Asian mongoloid connection, we looked at the problem of European-like rare Asian types in the past," Chalker says. "The controversial saga of the Taklamakan mummies in remote Western China is turning the early history of China on its head. These mummies include people who are quite tall, some 6 feet or so, and some are blond. I'm not suggesting a connection here, but you can understand this investigation has opened up all sorts of interesting possibilities about the biological nature of some of the beings implicated in abduction cases."

These questions will not be easy to answer. But supporting the work of the Anomaly Physical Evidence Group could help. Those able to offer financial assistance are urged to contact Bill Chalker at bill_c@bigpond.com for more information.

Readers interested in acquiring the full report on this case are invited to subscribe to:

International UFO Reporter (IUR). One year (four issues) costs \$25, or \$30 outside the United States. Send your order to: CUFOS, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago Illinois 60659. June 1999

(Bill Chalker will be interviewed at length about this case, the disappearance of Fred Valentich, the Father Gill CE3 and other UFO cases in his career in our next issue- DB)

A Die-Hard Issue

CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90 (part 3)

Gerald K. Haines

The 1960s: Declining CIA Involvement and Mounting Controversy

In the early 1960s, Keyhoe, Davidson, and other UFOlogists maintained their assault on the Agency for release of UFO information. Davidson now claimed that CIA "was solely responsible for creating the Flying Saucer furore as a tool for cold war psychological warfare since 1951." Despite calls for Congressional hearings and the release of all materials relating to UFOs, little changed.⁽⁶⁷⁾

In 1964, however, following high-level White House discussions on what to do if an alien intelligence was discovered in space and a new outbreak of UFO reports and sightings, DCI John McCone asked for an updated CIA evaluation of UFOs. Responding to McCone's request, OSI asked the CD to obtain various recent samples and reports of UFO sightings from NICAP. With Keyhoe, one of the founders, no longer active in the organisation, CIA officers met with Richard H. Hall, the acting director. Hall gave the officers samples from the NICAP database on the most recent sightings.⁽⁶⁸⁾

After OSI officers had reviewed the material, Donald F. Chamberlain, OSI Assistant Director, assured McCone that little had changed since the early 1950s. There was still no evidence that UFOs were a threat to the security of the United States or that they were of "foreign origin." Chamberlain told McCone that OSI still monitored UFO reports, including the official Air Force investigation, Project BLUE BOOK.⁽⁶⁹⁾

At the same time that CIA was conducting this latest internal review of UFOs, public pressure forced the Air Force to establish a special ad hoc committee to review BLUE BOOK. Chaired by Dr. Brian O'Brien, a member of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, the panel included Carl Sagan, the famous astronomer from Cornell University. Its report offered

nothing new. It declared that UFOs did not threaten the national security and that it could find "no UFO case which represented technological or scientific advances outside of a terrestrial framework." The committee did recommend that UFOs be studied intensively, with a leading university acting as a co-ordinator for the project, to settle the issue conclusively.⁽⁷⁰⁾

The House Armed Services Committee also held brief hearings on UFOs in 1966 that produced similar results. Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown assured the committee that most sightings were easily explained and that there was no evidence that "strangers from outer space" had been visiting Earth. He told the committee members, however, that the Air Force would keep an open mind and continue to investigate all UFO reports.⁽⁷¹⁾

Following the report of its O'Brien Committee, the House hearings on UFOs, and Dr. Robertson's disclosure on a *CBS Reports* program that CIA indeed had been involved in UFO analysis, the Air Force in July 1966 again approached the Agency for declassification of the entire Robertson panel report of 1953 and the full Durant report on the Robertson panel deliberations and findings. The Agency again refused to budge. Karl H. Weber, Deputy Director of OSI, wrote the Air Force that "We are most anxious that further publicity not be given to the information that the panel was sponsored by the CIA." Weber noted that there was already a sanitised version available to the public.⁽⁷²⁾ Weber's response was rather short-sighted and ill considered. It only drew more attention to the 13-year-old Robertson panel report and CIA's role in the investigation of UFOs. The science editor of *The Saturday Review* drew nation-wide attention to the CIA's role in investigating UFOs when he published an article criticising the "sanitised version" of the 1953 Robertson panel report and called for release of the entire document.⁽⁷³⁾

Unknown to CIA officials, Dr. James E. McDonald, a noted atmospheric physicist from

the University of Arizona, had already seen the Durant report on the Robertson panel proceedings at Wright-Patterson on 6 June 1966. When McDonald returned to Wright-Patterson on 30 June to copy the report, however, the Air Force refused to let him see it again, stating that it was a CIA classified document. Emerging as a UFO authority, McDonald publicly claimed that the CIA was behind the Air Force secrecy policies and cover-up. He demanded the release of the full Robertson panel report and the Durant report.⁽⁷⁴⁾

Bowing to public pressure and the recommendation of its own O'Brien Committee, the Air Force announced in August 1966 that it was seeking a contract with a leading university to undertake a program of intensive investigations of UFO sightings. The new program was designed to blunt continuing charges that the US Government had concealed what it knew about UFOs. On 7 October, the University of Colorado accepted a \$325,000 contract with the Air Force for an 18-month study of flying saucers. Dr. Edward U. Condon, a physicist at Colorado and a former Director of the National Bureau of Standards, agreed to head the program. Pronouncing himself an "agnostic" on the subject of UFOs, Condon observed that he had an open mind on the question and thought that possible extraterrestrial origins were "improbable but not impossible."⁽⁷⁵⁾

Brig. Gen. Edward Giller, USAF, and Dr. Thomas Ratchford from the Air Force Research and Development Office became the Air Force co-ordinators for the project.

In February 1967, Giller contacted Arthur C. Lundahl, Director of CIA's National Photographic Interpretation Centre (NPIC), and proposed an informal liaison through which NPIC could provide the Condon Committee with technical advice and services in examining photographs of alleged UFOs. Lundahl and DDI R. Jack Smith approved the arrangement as a way of "preserving a window" on the new effort. They wanted the CIA and NPIC to maintain a low profile, however, and to take no part in writing any conclusions for the committee. No work done for the committee by NPIC was to be formally acknowledged.⁽⁷⁶⁾

Ratchford next requested that Condon and his committee be allowed to visit NPIC to discuss the technical aspects of the problem and to view the special equipment NPIC had for

photoanalysis. On 20 February 1967, Condon and four members of his committee visited NPIC. Lundahl emphasised to the group that any NPIC work to assist the committee must not be identified as CIA work. Moreover, work performed by NPIC would be strictly of a technical nature. After receiving these guidelines, the group heard a series of briefings on the services and equipment not available elsewhere that CIA had used in its analysis of some UFO photography furnished by Ratchford. Condon and his committee were impressed.⁽⁷⁷⁾

Condon and the same group met again in May 1967 at NPIC to hear an analysis of UFO photographs taken at Zanesville, Ohio. The analysis debunked that sighting. The committee was again impressed with the technical work performed, and Condon remarked that for the first time a scientific analysis of a UFO would stand up to investigation.⁽⁷⁸⁾ The group also discussed the committee's plans to call on US citizens for additional photographs and to issue guidelines for taking useful UFO photographs. In addition, CIA officials agreed that the Condon Committee could release the full Durant report with only minor deletions.

In April 1969, Condon and his committee released their report on UFOs. The report concluded that little, if anything, had come from the study of UFOs in the past 21 years and that further extensive study of UFO sightings was unwarranted. It also recommended that the Air Force special unit, Project BLUE BOOK, be discontinued. It did not mention CIA participation in the Condon committee's investigation.⁽⁷⁹⁾

A special panel established by the National Academy of Sciences reviewed the Condon report and concurred with its conclusion that "no high priority in UFO investigations is warranted by data of the past two decades." It concluded its review by declaring, "On the basis of present knowledge, the least likely explanation of UFOs is the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitations by intelligent beings."

Following the recommendations of the Condon Committee and the National Academy of Sciences, the Secretary of the Air Force, Robert C. Seamans, Jr., announced on 17 December 1969 the termination of BLUE BOOK.⁽⁸⁰⁾

The 1970s and 1980s: The UFO Issue Refuses To Die

The Condon report did not satisfy many UFOlogists, who considered it a cover-up for CIA activities in UFO research. Additional sightings in the early 1970s fuelled beliefs that the CIA was somehow involved in a vast conspiracy. On 7 June 1975, William Spaulding, head of a small UFO group, Ground Saucer Watch (GSW), wrote to CIA requesting a copy of the Robertson panel report and all records relating to UFOs.⁽⁸¹⁾ Spaulding was convinced that the Agency was withholding major files on UFOs. Agency officials provided Spaulding with a copy of the Robertson panel report and of the Durant report.⁽⁸²⁾

On 14 July 1975, Spaulding again wrote the Agency questioning the authenticity of the reports he had received and alleging a CIA cover-up of its UFO activities. Gene Wilson, CIA's Information and Privacy Coordinator, replied in an attempt to satisfy Spaulding, "At no time prior to the formation of the Robertson Panel and subsequent to the issuance of the panel's report has CIA engaged in the study of the UFO phenomena." The Robertson panel report, according to Wilson, was "the summation of Agency interest and involvement in UFOs." Wilson also inferred that there were no additional documents in CIA's possession that related to UFOs. Wilson was ill informed.⁽⁸³⁾

In September 1977, Spaulding and GSW, unconvinced by Wilson's response, filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit against the Agency that specifically requested all UFO documents in CIA's possession. Deluged by similar FOIA requests for Agency information on UFOs, CIA officials agreed, after much legal manoeuvring, to conduct a "reasonable search" of CIA files for UFO materials.⁽⁸⁴⁾ Despite an Agency-wide unsympathetic attitude toward the suit, Agency officials, led by Launie Ziebell from the Office of General Counsel, conducted a thorough search for records pertaining to UFOs. Persistent, demanding, and even threatening at times, Ziebell and his group scoured the Agency. They even turned up an old UFO file under a secretary's desk. The search finally produced 355 documents totalling approximately 900 pages. On 14 December 1978, the Agency released all but 57 documents of about 100 pages to GSW. It withheld these 57 documents on national

security grounds and to protect sources and methods.⁽⁸⁵⁾

Although the released documents produced no smoking gun and revealed only a low-level Agency interest in the UFO phenomena after the Robertson panel report of 1953, the press treated the release in a sensational manner. *The New York Times*, for example, claimed that the declassified documents confirmed intensive government concern over UFOs and that the Agency was secretly involved in the surveillance of UFOs.⁽⁸⁶⁾ GSW then sued for the release of the withheld documents, claiming that the Agency was still holding out key information.⁽⁸⁷⁾ It was much like the John F. Kennedy assassination issue. No matter how much material the Agency released and no matter how dull and prosaic the information, people continued to believe in a Agency cover-up and conspiracy.

DCI Stansfield Turner was so upset when he read *The New York Times* article that he asked his senior officers, "Are we in UFOs?" After reviewing the records, Don Wortman, Deputy Director for Administration, reported to Turner that there was "no organised Agency effort to do research in connection with UFO phenomena nor has there been an organised effort to collect intelligence on UFOs since the 1950s." Wortman assured Turner that the Agency records held only "sporadic instances of correspondence dealing with the subject," including various kinds of reports of UFO sightings. There was no Agency program to collect actively information on UFOs, and the material released to GSW had few deletions.⁽⁸⁸⁾ Thus assured, Turner had the General Counsel press for a summary judgment against the new lawsuit by GSW. In May 1980, the courts dismissed the lawsuit, finding that the Agency had conducted a thorough and adequate search in good faith.⁽⁸⁹⁾

During the late 1970s and 1980s, the Agency continued its low-key interest in UFOs and UFO sightings. While most scientists now dismissed flying saucers reports as a quaint part of the 1950s and 1960s, some in the Agency and in the Intelligence Community shifted their interest to studying parapsychology and psychic phenomena associated with UFO sightings. CIA officials also looked at the UFO problem to determine what UFO sightings might tell them about Soviet progress in rockets and missiles and reviewed its counterintelligence aspects. Agency analysts from the Life Science Division of OSI and OSWR officially devoted

a small amount of their time to issues relating to UFOs. These included counterintelligence concerns that the Soviets and the KGB were using US citizens and UFO groups to obtain information on sensitive US weapons development programs (such as the Stealth aircraft), the vulnerability of the US air-defence network to penetration by foreign missiles mimicking UFOs, and evidence of Soviet advanced technology associated with UFO sightings.

CIA also maintained Intelligence Community co-ordination with other agencies regarding their work in parapsychology, psychic phenomena, and "remote viewing" experiments. In general, the Agency took a conservative scientific view of these unconventional scientific issues. There was no formal or official UFO project within the Agency in the 1980s, and Agency officials purposely kept files on UFOs to a minimum to avoid creating records that might mislead the public if released.(90)

The 1980s also produced renewed charges that the Agency was still withholding documents relating to the 1947 Roswell incident, in which a flying saucer supposedly crashed in New Mexico, and the surfacing of documents which purportedly revealed the existence of a top secret US research and development intelligence operation responsible only to the President on UFOs in the late 1940s and early 1950s. UFOlogists had long argued that, following a flying saucer crash in New Mexico in 1947, the government not only recovered debris from the crashed saucer but also four or five alien bodies. According to some UFOlogists, the government clamped tight security around the project and has refused to divulge its investigation results and research ever since.(91) In September 1994, the US Air Force released a new report on the Roswell incident that concluded that the debris found in New Mexico in 1947 probably came from a once top secret balloon operation, Project MOGUL, designed to monitor the atmosphere for evidence of Soviet nuclear tests.(92)

Circa 1984, a series of documents surfaced which some UFOlogists said proved that President Truman created a top secret committee in 1947, Majestic-12, to secure the recovery of UFO wreckage from Roswell and any other UFO crash sight for scientific study and to examine any alien bodies recovered from such sites. Most if not all of these documents have proved to be fabrications. Yet the controversy persists.(93)

Like the JFK assassination conspiracy theories, the UFO issue probably will not go away soon, no matter what the Agency does or says. The belief that we are not alone in the universe is too emotionally appealing and the distrust of our government is too pervasive to make the issue amenable to traditional scientific studies of rational explanation and evidence.

NOTES

(67)See, for example, Davidson, letter to Congressman Joseph Garth, 26 June 1961 and Carl Vinson, Chairman, House Committee on Armed Services, letter to Rep. Robert A. Everett, 2 September 1964.

(68)See Maxwell W. Hunter, staff member, National Aeronautics and Space Council, Executive Office of the President, memorandum for Robert F. Parkard, Office of International Scientific Affairs, Department of State, "Thoughts on the Space Alien Race Question," 18 July 1963, File SP 16, Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, National Archives. See also F. J. Sheridan, Chief, Washington Office, memorandum to Chief, Contact Division, "National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP)," 25 January 1965.

(69)Chamberlain, memorandum for DCI, "Evaluation of UFOs," 26 January 1965.

(70)See Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, p. 199 and US Air Force, Scientific Advisory Board, Ad Hoc Committee (O'Brien Committee) to Review Project BLUE BOOK, *Special Report* (Washington, DC: 1966). See also *The New York Times*, 14 August 1966, p. 70.

(71)See "Congress Reassured on Space Visits," *The New York Times*, 6 April 1966.

(72)Weber, letter to Col. Gerald E. Jorgensen, Chief, Community Relations Division, Office of Information, US Air Force, 15 August 1966. The Durant report was a detailed summary of the Robertson panel proceedings.

(73)See John Lear, "The Disputed CIA Document on UFOs," *Saturday Review* (September 3, 1966), p. 45. The Lear article was otherwise unsympathetic to UFO sightings and the possibility that extraterrestrials were involved. The Air Force had been eager to provide Lear with the full report. See Walter L. Mackey, Executive Officer, memorandum for DCI, "Air Force Request to Declassify CIA Material on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)," 1 September 1966.

(74)See Klass, UFOs, p. 40, Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, p. 214 and Everett Clark, "Physicist Scores 'Saucer Status,'" *The New York Times*, 21 October 1966. See also James E. McDonald, "Statement on Unidentified Flying Objects," submitted to the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, 29 July 1968.

(75)Condon is quoted in Walter Sullivan, "3 Aides Selected in Saucer Inquiry," *The New York Times*, 8 October 1966. See also "An Outspoken Scientist, Edward Uhler Condon," *The New York Times*, 8 October 1966. Condon, an outgoing, gruff scientist, had earlier become

embroiled in a controversy with the House Unamerican Activities Committee that claimed Condon was "one of the weakest links in our atomic security." See also Peebles, *Watch the Skies*, pp. 169-195.

(76)See Lundahl, memorandum for DDI, 7 February 1967.

(77)See memorandum for the record, "Visit of Dr. Condon to NPIC, 20 February 1967," 23 February 1967. See also the analysis of the photographs in memorandum for Lundahl, "Photo Analysis of UFO Photography," 17 February 1967.

(78)See memorandum for the record, "UFO Briefing for Dr. Edward Condon, 5 May 1967," 8 May 1967 and attached "Guidelines to UFO Photographers and UFO Photographic Information Sheet." See also Condon Committee, Press Release, 1 May 1967 and Klass, *UFOs*, p. 41. The Zaneville photographs turned out to be a hoax.

(79)See Edward U. Condon, *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* (New York: Bantam Books, 1969) and Klass, *UFOs*, p. 41. The report contained the Durant report with only minor deletions.

(80)See Office of Assistant Secretary of Defence, News Release, "Air Force to Terminate Project BLUEBOOK," 17 December 1969. The Air Force retired BLUEBOOK records to the USAF Archives at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. In 1976 the Air Force turned over all BLUEBOOK files to the National Archives and Records Administration, which made them available to the public without major restrictions. Some names have been withheld from the documents. See Klass, *UFOs*, p. 6.

(81)GSW was a small group of UFO buffs based in Phoenix, Arizona, and headed by William H. Spaulding.

(82)See Klass, *UFOs*, p. 8.

(83)See Wilson, letter to Spaulding, 26 March 1976 and GSW v. CIA Civil Action Case 78-859.

(84)GSW v. CIA Civil Action Case 78-859, p. 2.

(85)Author interview with Laurie Ziebell, 23 June 1994 and author interview with OSI analyst, 21 July 1994. See also affidavits of George Owens, CIA Information and Privacy Act Coordinator; Karl H. Weber, OSI; Sidney D. Stenbridge, Office of Security; and Rutledge P. Hazzard, DS&T; GSW v. CIA Civil Action Case 78-859 and Sayre Stevens, Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment, memorandum for Thomas H. White, Assistant for Information, Information Review Committee, "FOIA Litigation Ground Saucer Watch," no date.

(86)See "CIA Papers Detail UFO Surveillance," *The New York Times*, 13 January 1979; Patrick Huyghe, "UFO Files: The Untold Story," *The New York Times Magazine*, 14 October 1979, p. 106; and Jerome Clark, "UFO Update," *UFO Report*, August 1979.

(87)Jerome Clark, "Latest UFO News Briefs From Around the World," *UFO Update*, August 1979 and GSW v. CIA Civil Action No. 78-859.

(88)See Wortman, memorandum for DCI Turner, "Your Question, 'Are we in UFOs?' Annotated to The New York Times News Release Article," 18 January 1979.

(89)See GSW v. CIA Civil Action 78-859. See also Klass, *UFOs*, pp. 10-12.

(90)See John Brennan, memorandum for Richard Warshaw, Executive Assistant, DCI, "Requested

Information on UFOs," 30 September 1993; Author interviews with OSWR analyst, 14 June 1994 and OSI analyst, 21 July 1994. This author found almost no documentation on Agency involvement with UFOs in the 1980s.

There is a DIA Psychic Center and the NSA studies parapsychology, that branch of psychology that deals with the investigation of such psychic phenomena as clairvoyance, extrasensory perception, and telepathy. The CIA reportedly is also a member of an Incident Response Team to investigate UFO landings, if one should occur. This team has never met. The lack of solid CIA documentation on Agency UFO-related activities in the 1980s leaves the entire issue somewhat murky for this period.

Much of the UFO literature presently focuses on contactees and abductees. See John E. Mack, *Abduction, Human Encounters with Aliens* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1994) and Howard Blum, *Out There* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1990).

(91)See Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore, *The Roswell Incident* (New York: Berkeley Books, 1988); Moore, "The Roswell Incident: New Evidence in the Search for a Crashed UFO," (Burbank, California: Fair Witness Project, 1982), Publication Number 1201; and Klass, *UFOs*, pp. 280-281. In 1994 Congressman Steven H. Schiff (R-NM) called for an official study of the Roswell incident. The GAO is conducting a separate investigation of the incident. The CIA is not involved in the investigation. See Klass, *UFOs*, pp. 279-281; John H. Wright, Information and Privacy Coordinator, letter to Derek Skreen, 20 September 1993; and OSWR analyst interview. See also the made-for-TV film, *Roswell*, which appeared on cable TV on 31 July 1994 and Peebles, *Watch the Skies*, pp. 245-251.

(92)See John Diamond, "Air Force Probes 1947 UFO Claim Findings Are Down to Earth," 9 September 1994, Associated Press release; William J. Broad, "Wreckage of a 'Spaceship': Of This Earth (and U.S.)," *The New York Times*, 18 September 1994, p. 1; and USAF Col. Richard L. Weaver and 1st Lt. James McAndrew, *The Roswell Report, Fact Versus Fiction in New Mexico Desert* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1995).

(93)See Good, *Above Top Secret*; Moore and S. T. Friedman, "Philip Klass and MJ-12: What are the Facts," (Burbank, California: Fair-Witness Project, 1988), Publication Number 1290; Klass, "New Evidence of MJ-12 Hoax," *Skeptical Inquirer*, vol. 14 (Winter 1990); and Moore and Jaime H. Shandera, *The MJ-12 Documents: An Analytical Report* (Burbank, California: Fair-Witness Project, 1990), Publication Number 1500. Walter Bedell Smith supposedly replaced Forrestal on 1 August 1950 following Forrestal's death. All members listed were deceased when the MJ-12 "documents" surfaced in 1984. See Peebles, *Watch the Skies*, pp. 258-268.

Dr. Larry Bland, editor of *The George C. Marshall Papers*, discovered that one of the so-called Majestic-12 documents was a complete fraud. It contained the exact same language as a letter from Marshall to Presidential candidate Thomas Dewey regarding the "Magic" intercepts in 1944. The dates and names had been altered and "Magic" changed to "Majic." Moreover, it was a photocopy, not an original. No original MJ-12 documents have ever surfaced. Telephone conversation between the author and Bland, 29 August 1994.

SWEDISH MILITARY SEARCH FOR FALLEN UFO IN LAKE

By Clas Svahn/UFO-Sweden
(Translation from Swedish by Eileen Fletcher)

What was it that crashed down into the 13-metre-deep Lake Backsjön north of Arvika in Värmland? An object with small wings, say the witnesses. Nothing at all, say the military who searched for many weeks.

It was well after midday on the 27th of July 1999, at least four people around Lake Backsjön outside Gunnarskog saw how an oblong object plunged down from the sky. Some of the witnesses said they'd also seen small wings sticking out from the 5 metre long and 1,5 metre wide body.

The object crashed down with a splash and water was thrown into the air. One of the witnesses contacted the rescue station in Arvika which in turn contacted the police, who sent a report to FO 52 - area defence in Kristinehamn - it finally reached operations command at milostaben in Strängnäs.

We interviewed the witnesses who had all seen the object come down said chief of staff Stellan Jansson, who was responsible for the search. During late August many test dives were made in the lake, and the military worked with the security police and the rescue station, evaluating the reliability of the witnesses. The conclusion was that the witnesses were reliable and that a greater and more costly effort was needed. On the 13th of September they renewed the investigation around the 2 kilometre long and 800 metre wide lake under the code name 'Operation Sea Find'. There were 14 men, eight of whom were divers, along with Sweden's most sophisticated sonar equipment and an under-water camera. Personnel from operations command in Strängnäs were also present.

When the military began showing interest in the lake at the beginning of August, the public were presented with a completely different story. Arvika Nyheter's news reporter Kjell Emanuelsson received the reply that it was a home defence practice, whilst Anne-Marie Gundahl who lives at Lake Backsjön heard that

the divers were training to make bridges!

"We got to know that it could be something which was dangerous if it ended up in foreign hands," says Birgitta Jakobsson from the nearby community of Gunnarskog.

Confusion as to what the military were up to at the lake was great. According to Stellan Jansson, it was all due to a break-in at a mobilisation supply depot in the area some weeks earlier. Home guardsmen were responsible for guarding the area whilst repairs were carried out, at the same time as checks were made to see if anything had been stolen.

Then we drove down and interviewed the witnesses who had all seen the same thing. At the same time there were also home guardsmen in the area. Then at the end of August, we began a three-man diving operation in the lake.

With this very strong coalition we were able to make a thorough search from September 13th to September 16th. We gave it all we'd got.

How much time did you set aside for the search?

Including the preparation time and reconnaissance, it was ten days. In the end we had searched through 75 per cent of the lake. We were methodical, so that we were sure that the object that had come down into the lake had not glided further away. We really tried to cover the whole area.

From the shore, the locals around Lake Backsjön could follow the activities of the military. From seven in the morning to seven in the evening, they could see divers working in the 13-metre-deep lake.

Visibility was ten centimetres. But with the help of an underwater craft equipped with ultrasound and a camera capable of seeing an object only a couple of centimetres in size on the bottom of the lake, nothing was left to chance. If the same area had been so thoroughly searched by divers, it would

have taken a year with the poor visibility, according to Stellan Jansson.

"No matter how small the object had been, we would have found it." said Stellan.

Were you surprised that nothing was found?

"I must admit that I was. With the powerful equipment and effort made this week, I really thought we'd find something. The search in Lake Backsjön gave the military food for thought. Here were good witnesses who related a plausible story. But after investigations, their claims could not be verified.

"We have to treat the reports as reliable, but the search has not found anything and we do not know exactly what we're looking for." said Colonel Yngve Johansson at FO 52. The result after many weeks of searching was only a metal barrel and a plastic bag. It has been a bit difficult. The people are very reliable and have really put themselves forward to help us in any way imaginable," said Stellan Jansson.

"They were interested themselves to see us bring something up from the lake. But one knows how the sun can reflect when at a certain angle – perhaps a fish leaped or a bird dived down..... Certainly seven people could experience an optical illusion, it does happen. One cannot dismiss the possibility altogether."

After midday on the 16th of September, the search was discontinued. On October 1st, a report was finished for further distribution to the commanding officer, and the military intelligence and security at headquarters in Stockholm. Two pages were not classified but transcripts from the security police's interviews and a detailed description of the technics used during the search were classified.

UFO-Sweden has filed a request to de-classify parts of the report. In all the search costed 150.000 Swedish crowns.

When I asked the colonel of the first grade Yngve Johansson at FO 52, what people who see unidentified objects in the sky should do, he replied:

"I think that the public should report all the information and possibilities to us. We can then build up a picture of what happened. One incident does not give us the answer, but many could."

MONTHLY KWIZ

1) You are sitting in your garden on the flight-path to Leeds-Bradford airport. Above you, at the sound of a 'plane, you see a triangular arrangement of lights. It moves off in the direction of the airport and out of sight, descending as it does. Do you...

- a) Phone Omar Fowler?
- b) Phone Tim Matthews?
- c) Phone for a curry?

2) You awake one morning with a strange feeling that "something awful " happened in the night. You have a terrible headache, a nasty taste in your mouth, a feeling of disorientation, loss of memory, and strange cuts and bruises all over your body. Do you...?

- a) Blame the 'Greys'?
- b) Blame the 'Blondes'?
- c) Blame the 'lager' down at the Frog & Sprocket?

3) You are a famous UFO writer at work on your next book and have run out of ideas. Do you...?

- a) Go out and do a years's research, gathering enough material to present a fresh slant on modern ufology?
- b) Change the chapters around of your previous two books, throw in a couple of ideas from other people, and there you have it?
- c) Make a 'revelation' that a previous witness from an earlier book was actually you and then deny it until the book comes out?

4) You hear on the news that the latest attempt to land a probe on Mars has gone "pear-shaped". Is it...?

- a) Destroyed, a victim of a pulse-beam from the top-secret "Ultra-Black" Mars base founded by the New World Bilderberg Group?
- b) Now being worshiped as a God by a rogue tribe of Reptilians in their arcane Martian temple?
- c) In an Australian Dam.(see story page 19)

CHRISTMAS, RELIGION AND UFOLOGY

By Andrew Ashmore

Well, it's that time of year again. Mike Reid and Chubby Brown will be releasing videos, Freddie Starr and Foster & Allen will be flogging their equally naff CDs, we'll all be eating, drinking and being merry....and oh yes, it's Christmas as well!

It is perhaps the time to, for once, forget our subject of interest, relax, let our hair down, and over-indulge. (So no difference there, for me, but at least I can use Christmas as an excuse!)

But what does all this "celebration" really mean to us all? Just what are we supposedly rejoicing? Getting a new Sony Playstation, bike, hi-fi or other gifts? Probably. Having a load of parties? Possibly. But as for the whole aspect of religion, probably not for the most of us.

I myself am not particularly religious (*never!-Ed*) but yet I was brought up through school being taught Christianity and never gave it much scrutiny until these last few years.

Even my R.E. teacher at secondary school said that the Bible was perhaps only half true. Maybe what he should have said was half-accurate. Maybe the truth is all there but it is the perception of that truth that is different from how we would all see it now.

Maybe, just maybe, some of the events in this book are the biggest UFO stories ever told, but they just don't read like it to most people.

The Star of Bethlehem is relatively easy to pass off as a UFO, especially the bit about it hovering over the birth place of Christ.

The Virgin birth? Alien Abduction and impregnation? It's a thought considering what some people are claiming now. That is unless Mary wasn't being entirely truthful.¹

And unless Paul Daniels is right about "Jesus was probably a conjurer", then perhaps the 'miracles' were some form of highly advanced technology.

And so it goes on. All these amazing events – some hard to explain scientifically – took place and no-one has really questioned it all.

I do not wish to appear blasphemous, and indeed I do apologise to anyone of a religious persuasion if I have offended them, but in this day and age, we, as a whole, view a lot of things differently to what we used to.

This is mainly due to our advancement in technology, general understanding of things, and also a shift in social attitudes.

But for religion, whichever one any person may choose to believe, things are taught and accepted virtually the same as they always were.

And even though the vast majority of people for example do not go to church, we still have to take the Bible in our right hand before we give evidence in court. Even though most people don't really believe in it, it is still viewed for some things as significant.

And it probably is, but if you told people it was all related to UFOs and/or aliens then you would be scoffed at. But yet the Bible as it stands is seldom ridiculed in the way the subject of ufology is.

Which idea is hardest logically to believe? The notion of a highly-advanced extra-terrestrial race finding a way to get to Earth, or the whole idea of God, heaven, and all the other "way-out" things the Bible says?

Unfortunately, religion – like ufology – can attract some strange people and I've seen good, sane individuals transform into a person you no longer recognise. That is why I have never let myself get too carried away with our field of interest.

One minute you can be elated at the idea of some "alien footage" only to have your hopes dashed when you realise it is just another fake.

But let us all try to be patient. After all, I am sure that the truth will all come out, it is just a matter of when.

¹ Mr. Ashmore is presently "in hiding" in property formerly owned by Salman Rushdie.

This may seem optimistic but then I suppose we all have to be. I mean, if we all thought that we would never learn the reality behind UFOs then what is the point of trying to find out in the first place?

Let us treat it like a science of discovery – that there is always more to know, and that in the end we will reach our objective just as all the great scientists and inventors did.

In the meantime, let me personally wish every member of our group a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I hope to see you all in January when, after a little respite, we can all get back down to business.

And finally let us remember – a turkey isn't just for Christmas... it's for life!

Andrew Ashmore

FORUM

"Moon-gate"...the saga continues.....

Obviously Jon Slater has not 'dared' to read the book - has *anyone* at YUFOS read it? - Can anyone else get their teeth into the subject?

The authors Bennett and Percy do not claim that astronauts from earth never walked on the moon, but that without the problem of radiation being overcome, (why has the nuclear industry not implemented the results of such a big breakthrough?), the Apollo team (or anyone else) could not possibly have made the journey there and back unscathed - if they were to get back at all.

The point Jon Slater makes re the flag is not the problem. There are serious differences in the TV pictures and the stills, which were supposed to be taken simultaneously. According to the book –

"Barely any single moment of any TV recorded coverage matches exactly any still image of any Apollo mission!"

There are plenty of examples with photos.

It is very foolish to ignore the serious questions raised just because we don't want to believe the events of '69 were a lie. As a 22 year old, I watched the NASA version, I haven't suddenly decided one morning in 1999 that the whole thing was a hoax, and looked around for a book to fit in with my thinking.

But if the book (or any such book) is scientifically incorrect and the authors are telling lies themselves just to make money, let's take them to task. But why has NASA not already done so - sued the pants off them in fact? NASA did what they did in order to cover up photographic evidence of UFOs? Er, I don't think so!

The subject of the moon rock is covered extensively in the book. Interesting points are made regarding the age and composition of the moon.

Are there any readers of YUFOS, any prominent ufologists who agree with the book's findings or can give us answers to the important questions etc raised in the book?

Let's wake up out there fellow earthlings, hybrids - whatever!

Eileen Fletcher

GERMAN AIRSHIPS IN 1913?

By Dr. David Clarke,

(UFOIN mailing list)

I wondered if any of you had spotted the following in the *The Guardian Century*, *The Story of Our Age*, which is the supplement *The Guardian* newspaper have been running on Saturdays for the last few months, reproducing real newspaper stories from the turn of the century, decade by decade.

In Part One: 1899-1913, appeared the following, taken from an issue of the *Manchester Guardian* (as it was then) dated February 27, 1913.

It rang a bell with me as it was one of the articles I dug out for the 1913 airship scare catalog I helped to compile for the Fund for UFO Research ten years ago, and it obviously stood out as an "historical event" alongside all the other landmarks of history chosen for the compilation.

I thought it was particularly poignant as it illustrates precisely all the problems of interpretation and misinterpretation that we are still grappling with as UFOlogists in 1999! Except that in 1913 these "UFOs" were far more important – because misinterpretation back then could have resulted in the premature outbreak of war; quite a sobering thought, eh? Here goes:

*MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS IN THE SKY
Reported Visits of German Airships Reasons
for Doubt*

During the past week scores of persons in various parts of England have convinced themselves that they have seen an airship in the night sky. Most of the reports agree that two bright lights appeared close together, hovered in the air for a time, and then rapidly disappeared.

Some of the observers add that they heard the droning of an engine. The reports come from several places on the east coast and also Portsmouth. Based on these facts suggestions are now being made in many quarters and positive assertions in others that German airships have travelled each night over England.

For many reasons such a conclusion should be regarded with grave suspicion.

First there is no satisfactory evidence that an airship has been seen. Four years ago several English newspapers spent many days working up an airship scare which in the end feebly frittered out. At that time the evidence was as good as the evidence advanced to-day. No doubt the observers who report the lights act in good faith, but even an expert would find considerable difficulty in making sure of the presence of a dirigible at night. And the observers have not been experts.

Moreover, a vessel paying a secret and unwelcome visit to England would have every reason for hiding her lights, which she could easily do.

An interesting fact bearing on this point is that the lights have usually been seen in the western sky about the time when the planet Venus, now very bright, is sinking towards that horizon.

(From the *Manchester Guardian*, February 27, 1913.)

Another point to bear in mind: Hasn't journalism declined since 1913? Can you imagine a national newspaper carrying such a balanced and cautious piece as this today?

For those interested in the phantom airship era, my revised paper on the British 1909 wave is published in *Fortean Studies* Vol 6, due out in December.

Dave Clarke

(The next part of Dave's article "Sheffield Saucer History" will appear in the next issue of Project Red Book –Ed)

THE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO UFO-SPOTTING (Pt 3)

Or: Removing the 'Un' from Unidentified...

By Dave Baker

NOCTURNAL LIGHTS (Cont.)

METEORS

Meteorites are space-borne pieces of rock which enter the Earth's atmosphere at tremendous speed and burn up from the incredible friction of rubbing against the atmospheric gasses. The fiery streak of light which follows is sometimes called a "shooting star", and depending on the size of the meteor, can be quite alarming. Considering that around 10,000 tons of meteorites fall to Earth each year, there is prime material for UFO reports.

Although they most commonly burn an incandescent white, meteors can appear in all colours of the spectrum, or even change colour. Some incinerate with such intensity that they can even be seen during the day, a little known fact which leads to claims from the witness that, "It couldn't be a meteor because...."²

Other meteors leave a burning trail of gasses behind them, and this can continue to glow for a minute or so after the meteor itself has completely burned up. Even this glow, seen while the meteor was missed, can be mistaken for a UFO.

Usually very short in duration- from around one to ten seconds- a shooting star's 'life' is usually so brief that the observer does not have enough time to focus on it and they actually only glimpse the meteor with their peripheral vision. Although the witness may 'remember' seeing cylindrical fuselages, glowing portholes and revolving, flashing lights, it is likely that these details have been later dredged from their unconscious mind as to what they thought they ought to have seen.³

Although the majority of meteorites are no larger than grains of sand, much larger

meteorites also enter the Earth's atmosphere, and are consequently visible for longer. These are called bolides and burn a brilliant green or blue as they move across the sky and can even leave a smoke-trail visible in daylight. Bolides can be heard too, typically a hissing, roaring or "whooshing" sound, occasionally breaking the sound barrier. A bolide was originally thought to be responsible for the "sonic boom" heard during "The Howden Moor Incident" in March 1997, and Jenny Randles believes that bolides are the explanation for such celebrated UFO cases as the Childes & Whitted report of July 1948 and the famous Manchester 'near-miss'.

A very small fraction of bolides actually survive the entire journey through the atmosphere and break into flaming fragments, which strike the Earth.⁴ It is possibly this action that gives rise to some of the reports of 'exploding' or 'dividing' UFOs.

Although there are a number of periods of intense meteor activity when the Earth's orbit passes through 'swarms' of meteorites, such as the Perseids in July/ August and the Geminids in December, meteors can be seen throughout the year and all over the world. However, stargazers should be aware that there is an arcane and little known Law of Nature which always comes into effect should you opt to hold a sky-watch in order to view the Perseids or the other astronomical wonders.⁵

SATELLITES

Similar in appearance to meteors is the re-entry of "space-junk". When satellites lose their orbit and re-enter the Earth's atmosphere -at 28,000 km - they are generally only distinguishable from the re-entry of a meteor by the duration of the sighting. Due to their size and heat-resistant panels, they take longer

² Also applicable to "it couldn't be a plane because", "it couldn't be a balloon because" and "it couldn't be Venus because..." and it usually IS.

³ A similar example is how people who read a Jeffrey Archer novel remember it being a lot better than it really was.

⁴ Usually found by inquisitive gamekeepers or tramps, taken home with the notion that "there's money in this", only for the meteor to split asunder and spit protoplasmic goo which absorbs the gamekeeper, grows to immense size and challenges Steve McQueen.

⁵ "Thou shalt not vieweth a sodding thinge, as it shalle be as cloudie as alle Helle."

to incinerate and put on a more impressive light-show. The ultimate example of this was the fall of Sky-lab as it crashed to Earth in the Western Australian desert in 1979.

Hundreds of people in Britain and Scotland witnessed what they thought was a blazing UFO sweep across the night sky on New Year's Eve, 1978. There were a wide variety of descriptions of this 'object', from "fireballs" and "cigars", to "a long tube like a railway carriage in the sky". Colours witnessed were red, blue, white and green, and all concerned were positive that the duration of their sightings was in minutes rather than seconds – much too long for a meteor. Jenny Randles gives a detailed account of this event in her book "*UFO Study*" and concludes that the UFO was almost certainly the re-entry of the booster-rocket from the Russian satellite Cosmos 1068.

It is not only when satellites become "space-junk" and lose their orbit that they can be responsible for UFO reports. As they move in an arc across the sky- taking minutes to do so- they appear as a white "star" like object, as their polished surfaces or solar reflectors catch the Sun. These always move in a fixed, straight line, but can appear to jerk and move erratically off course, or even momentarily stop.⁶ This is caused by "autostasis", an optical illusion caused by the minute movements of the eye when watching a moving object with no real reference point.

Some satellites appear brighter than others, but in an area away from harsh city-lights, many can be viewed easily and can be quite startling to the uninitiated. This is why sky-watches are essential for would-be UFO investigators, providing you can avoid the Law of Nature overleaf.

SEARCHLIGHTS

When I first founded the Yorkshire UFO Society I received a number of calls from concerned witnesses who had watched a number of disc-like UFOs cavorting high over the city. These white, circular lights had appeared to "play tag with each other", or engage in "dog-fights", moving in sweeping, figure-eight movements just above the clouds.

⁶ *The opposite of this phenomenon can be discovered on walking home from the pub at night, whereby although you may think you are walking in a straight line you are actually weaving "all over the shop."*

No one heard any sound, and the objects performed these aerial acrobatics for "over an hour". In fact these UFO games went on for so long that some witnesses grew tired of watching them and went to bed.

I had a good idea what these 'UFOs' were from the general descriptions and the duration of the sightings, but I needed to confirm this. It did not take long to discover that a new nightclub had opened in Attercliffe that very night...and had celebrated by beaming searchlights into the evening sky. The dog-fighting 'UFOs' had been nothing more than the reflections of the searchlight beams on low-lying clouds.

An interesting point to note is that unlike the theatrical images we see of sharply-defined beams cutting through the darkness, the actual beams are not always visible, merely the termination of them.

The high intensity of searchlights are not the only culprits for IFOs such as this one..

A young woman was driving her car late at night and was approaching the brow of a very high, very steep hill overlooking Sheffield when she caught sight of a whitish, flat disc in the sky above and directly ahead of her. It appeared to be gliding above or among the clouds, it's eerie glow visible through the low cloud layer. There was a quarter moon off to her right some distance from this UFO, and so was certainly not the culprit. As the car crested the hill and levelled out, the UFO "shot off through the clouds and out of sight faster than a jet."

Although I could not prove it, I am satisfied that the 'UFO' was nothing more than the termination of the beams from her car's headlights reflected on the low cloud layer.

The headlights of moving vehicles on distant, dark roads, when seen at night from a distance can appear like "balls of light" sweeping across the sky.

Even powerful hand-held torches can be mis-identified from a distance and in unusual circumstances. Andy Roberts' re-investigation of the Berwyn Mountains "UFO crash" revealed that flashlights held by poachers to hunt rabbits were eerily visible from some distance away, magnified by the highland mist.

(Continued next issue...)

FROM AROUND THE WORLD... AND BEYOND!!

UFOs, conspiracies, paranormal and fortune events compiled by Dave Baker

MINISTER TO OPEN BRITAIN'S X-FILES

(By Ian Kirby)

The truth about whether aliens have ever visited Britain is to be revealed at last.

Top secret government X-Files on thousands of 'space-ship' riddles will be opened up to public gaze by Defence Minister Peter Kilfoyle.

They will include photos and details of every UFO investigation in the past 30 years. Every year, around 300 alien sightings are reported.

Plans by military experts for action in the event of an alien invasion of London will also be unveiled.

The files, stored in a nuclear bomb-proof bunker deep below White Hall, should be released in three months.

The move, part of a government drive to end unnecessary secrecy, is sure to send UFO spotters into a frenzy. They will hope to learn about:

A Massive craft spotted flying in zig-zags off Britain's North Sea coast last year. The 900ft UFO shot off at 17,000mph when pursued by two fighter jets. Claims that seven UFOs have crashed in Britain since World War II. Sightings of a triangular three-legged space-ship in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk in 1980.

US airman from two nearby bases claim the object rose hovering out of the trees, then blasted into space at an incredible speed. RAF investigators cordoned off the area, but their findings are still a closely-guarded secret.

Some details of UFO sightings in the Fifties and Sixties have already been made public under the Thirty-Year Rule applied to sensitive documents.

Among them in the famous 1962 incident in which 16-year-old Anne Heston was sworn to secrecy after she reported seeing a star-like

object shooting out red and green flames above her home in Taunton, Somerset.

Ten years earlier, RAF Flight Lieutenant John Kilburn saw a shining object in the sky above a West Yorks air base. When jets were scrambled to investigate, the UFO took off at an incredible speed. But the facts about most later mysteries are still locked away.

They include the truth about claims by former defence chief Lord Hill-Norton that RAF Feltwell in Suffolk uses its space-age radar, built by the US Air Force, to track UFOs.

He quizzed ministers about the base, but never got a satisfactory answer. Several sightings in 1990 of a bright light above the Thames in London could also be explained.

The pledge to open up our X-Files follows similar moves in America.

The Yanks recently released a report of the notorious Roswell incident in 1947, in which alien corpses were allegedly seen at a secret New Mexico air base.

They explained the "bodies" were dummies from a secret weather balloon, but UFO theorists still believe there is a cover-up.

Britain's files were prepared by the MoD's hush-hush Aircraft Secretariat, set up to investigate UFOs. Amazingly its one-time boss Nick Pope believes He was abducted by aliens while driving in Florida.

He kept mum while in his job for fear of being labelled a crank.

But after leaving the secret unit, he wrote a series of best sellers about alien incidents.

He said: "My experiences convinced me that UFOs are a real and threatening phenomenon. We are not alone.

"Since 1959, the MoD has heard of 9,000 UFO sightings, though that's probably only the tip of the iceberg."

Defence Minister Mr Kilfoyle has told colleagues that, after a careful review of the files, he is "not convinced" about the existence of aliens.

But MoD staff say he wants people to be able to make up their own minds.

A source said: "These files are of huge public interest. They paint a fascinating picture of how UFO reports were investigated and what would happen if aliens ever did land in Britain."

(News Of The World Sunday 14th November 1999)

BEAST OF BODMIN EVADES RAF CAMERAS

The big cat mystery is still unsolved

Hi-tech efforts to capture the legendary Beast of Bodmin on film have failed because of bad weather on the Cornish moor. RAF reserve volunteers spent Saturday night camped in ditches and under hedges with the latest military night-vision equipment.

But all attempts by members of 2625 County of Cornwall Squadron to spot a big cat were scuppered by low cloud and mist.

However, Squadron Leader Andrew McCombe told BBC News Online that several intruder detection devices were triggered during the night.

"So something was moving along the tracks," he said, "but because of the cloud we could not get a good look. It was an interesting and useful training exercise and we will be doing it again in the New Year."

The would be beast-baggers are volunteers in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, the RAF's equivalent of the Territorial Army.

Four members of the 2625 County of Cornwall squadron have served in Kosovo and eight have been on active duty in Kuwait.

The skills and equipment used in the night time operation in Cornwall are the same as those used when staffing observation posts on the edges of RAF airfields.

The existence of big cats on Bodmin Moor has never been proven beyond doubt, although many Cornish farmers maintain they have lost sheep to large, savage animals.

In August 1998 a 20-second video was released and was declared by some wild cat experts to be the best evidence yet that big cats roam Bodmin Moor.

There have been about 60 big cat sightings recorded in the area since 1983 but in 1995 a government report concluded there was no evidence that big cats existed on the moor.

ASTRONOMERS PROVE EXTRASOLAR PLANETS REAL

Astronomers see shadow of planet cross distant star, proving that extra-solar planets are real.

Nashville, Tennessee, and Berkeley, California Astronomers have witnessed for the first time a distant planet passing in front of its star, providing direct and independent confirmation of the existence of extrasolar planets that to date have been inferred only from the wobble of their star.

"This is the first independent confirmation of a planet discovered through changes in a star's radial velocity and demonstrates that our indirect evidence for planets really is due to planets," said Geoffrey Marcy, a professor of astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley.

Marcy and his colleagues, Paul Butler of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism at the Carnegie Institution of Washington in Washington, D.C., and Steve Vogt of UC Santa Cruz and Lick Observatory, first detected a wobble in the star called HD 209458 on Nov. 5. Ascribing the wobble to a nearby planet, they were able to estimate its orbit and approximate mass.

As with all new planets they detect, the team immediately brought it to the attention of collaborator Greg Henry, an astronomer at the Tennessee State University Centre of Excellence in Information Systems in Nashville. He conducts research with several automatic telescopes at Fairborn Observatory, a non-profit research foundation located in the Patagonia Mountains of southern Arizona.

Henry turned one of his automated telescope on the star at the time Marcy and Butler predicted the planet would cross the face of the star if the planet's orbital plane were lucky enough to carry it between Earth and the star. Until now, none of the 18 other extrasolar

planets Marcy and Butler have discovered has had its orbital plane oriented edge-on to Earth so that the planet could be seen to transit the star, nor have any of the other planets discovered by other researchers.

However, on Nov. 7, Hemy observed a 1.7 percent dip in the star's brightness. Because the planet orbits its star once every 3.523 days, he plans to repeat his observations on Sunday, Nov. 14.

"This planetary transit occurred at exactly the time predicted from Marcy's observations, confirming absolutely the presence of a companion," Henry said. "The amount of dimming of the star's light during the transit also gives us the first-ever measure of the size and density of an extrasolar planet. We've essentially seen the shadow of the planet and used it to measure the planet's size."

The star HD 209458 is 47 parsecs (153 light years or 1.4 million billion kilometers or 859,000 billion miles) away in the constellation of Pegasus, and is about the same age, color and size as our own Sun. It is very near the star, 51 Pegasi, around which the first extrasolar planet was discovered in 1995.

With the orbital plane of the planet known, the astronomers for the first time could determine precisely the mass of the planet and, from the size of the planet measured during transit, its density.

Interestingly, while the planet's mass is only 63 percent of Jupiter's mass, its radius is 60 percent bigger than that of Jupiter. This fits with theories that predict a bloated planet when, as here, the planet is very close to the star.

The density, about 0.2 grams per cubic centimeter, means it is a gas giant like Jupiter. However, such gas giants could not have formed at the distance this planet is from its star.

"This supports the theory that extrasolar planets very near their star did not form where they are, but formed farther out and migrated inward," Henry said.

Various groups around the world have been searching for planets by looking for dimming of stars, or as Marcy says, "staring at the sky and seeing if any star blinks." To date, none of these searches has turned up a new planet.

"With this one, everything hangs together," Marcy said. "This is what we've been waiting for."

The research was supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, Sun Microsystems and the Richard Lounsbery Foundation.

(Source: Press release from Tennessee State University)

HUGE OBJECT OVER PAPUA, NEW GUINEA

New Britain, Papua New Guinea stirred up by huge object on Tuesday, Nov. 4 1999

(by Bill Chalker <bill_c@bigpond.com>)

Thousands in the New Britain region, the Gazelle Peninsula, the remote Bainingo ranges, the Duke of York Islands, the Baining area, Vavu Beach, North coast of Rabaul, and Pilapila community have apparently witnessed a large slow moving object described variously as a craft "which had huge lumps on the sides with light flickering around it" (people of the remote Bainingo ranges), apparently about 200 metres long, 50 metres wide & "lit up like a city in the sky", moving slowly across the sky "making a quite puffing noise" - an airship perhaps?

But other descriptions challenge that possibility. People living on the island in the Duke of York group closest to New Ireland province reported seeing a huge craft hovering just metres above the sea off St. Georges Channel, and travelling very slowly. They also reported other smaller craft with bright lights circling the larger one "in a playful manner".

John Berenti, & family of Namatanai, New Ireland, saw "a huge craft appear just above the top of the mango trees" he estimated 200 metres to 300 metres long & 50 metres wide. Others tried to chase the object.

Raymond Theodore a Ploice officer at about 8.30 pm, on Vuvu Beach, North Rabaul coast, saw "a huge craft travelling just metres above the seas... we saw it travel over Waton Island. It had very bright lights at the back as it moved along."

Alex Jame & 4 other boys returning from Pilapila Community School about 7 pm and

others saw bright lights approaching. As the UFO approached, Alex claimed "the street lights dimmed like when the batteries in a torch are flat."

He thought it was noiseless, oblong in shape, bright lights around the edges, with a top like a pyramid with some lights around it. All white lights. The boys said it took 30 minutes to pass them. Alex said when the object hovered over them the place around them light up & they could see people near them as if it was daylight. It eventually disappeared over the mountains near Vuvu.

Another local, John Mcleod, manager of the Malangan Beach resort, New Ireland province, said he watched it and thought it was a satellite re-entry. He seems to be describing something else entirely.

If it was an airship or blimp it was a spectacular one??

CATTLE STAMPEDE A MYSTERY

(from Oz & ASIA DATA RESEARCH
Phenomena Research Australia)

"The following press item appeared in our State of Victoria Broadsheet newspaper. Although there is no UFO connection in the

report, 'Cattle Mutilation' experts may find it of some interest. The full report follows:"

A daily stampede of thousands of cattle on properties on Queensland's Darling Downs is baffling graziers.

Every morning, between about 5 and 6.30, "haunted" cows on half a dozen properties near Chinchilla run to the westernmost end of the properties.

Farmers don't think the cows are fleeing dingoes or emus, nor do they think they are being spooked by army exercises in the area.

Darling Downs graziers Zora and John Poulsen have 1000 head that have been charging westward every morning. So are cows on neighbouring properties, and at Jandowie, 100 kilometres to the south-east and at Manango in the east.

The Poulsons think the cattle could be indicating possible seismic activity.

"They're just absolutely haunted," Mrs Poulsen said.

"It doesn't seem to be any other animals - not the horses, just the cattle. We really don't know what's happening."

(Text: (c) The Age 27th Nov 1999, p19)

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January, 2000
7:00pm - 10:00 pm

THE THREE CRANES
Queen Street
Sheffield City Centre

**"THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
NEW MILLENIUM!!!"***

(*exactly the same as usual, then.)

STOP PRESS!!! LARGE FLYING OBJECT WAKES SLEEPY TOWN

Experts are investigating a mysterious flying object which landed in an Australian dam, left a large crater and sank beneath the mud.

Police have sealed off a one-mile area around the dam near the sleepy town of Guyra, 250 miles north of Sydney.

The object - probably a meteorite or aircraft sewage - left a crater 15 metres long and 6 metres wide.

Scientists interviewed have ruled out a UFO or space junk.

(BBC cee fax, 9/12/99)

*A MERRY
CHRISTMAS*

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM ALL AT

YUFOS!